

**March 17, 2003**

**TO: NITC Commissioners**

**FROM: Tom Rolfes, Education I.T. Manager**

**SUBJECT: Education Council Report to the Commission for March 24, 2003**

This report from the Education Council is presented on behalf of the co-chairs, Alan Wibbels of ESU 10 and Jack Huck of Southeast Community College.

By March 24, the Education Council will have met four times since the last NITC meeting in November. The Education Council has hosted presentations for its members in an effort to keep them abreast of technology developments across the State of Nebraska. These presentations included the Nebraska Education Portal, the Nebraska e-Learning Initiative, NETCOM update, and the Statewide Bandwidth Inventory update. Each month the Education Council gets an update from Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) on the use of the Nebraska Video Conference Network, satellite network and help desk functions.

In addition, the Education Council has been very pro-active in developing the charters and membership of the following workgroups: Network Architecture, Interim Network Policy, Statewide Synchronous Video Network, and the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership.

**Education Council Action Items** The six different Action Item task groups have been meeting electronically and face-to-face to further their progress on issues related to synchronous video, technology training, life cycle funding, the role of technology in standards, education technology proficiency measures, and distance learning materials and delivery.

**“Click into Education—the Nebraska Education Portal”** The Education Council participated in a prioritization exercise to determine the most important value-added services or enhancements to be added to the Education Portal: (<http://www.nebraska.gov/education>). Nebraska Online will continue development in this area using grant funds from the Nebraska State Records Board.

**Public Service Commission (PSC) Workshop on Distance Learning** The Education Council unanimously passed a resolution to support the Public Service Commission in its Workshop to investigate the status of distance education: *“The NITC Education Council resolves to support the Nebraska Public Service Commission in its efforts to conduct a workshop for the investigation of distance learning. The Education Council, in representing K-20 public and private education, encourages the rapid and timely implementation of the Distance Education Network Completion Grant (LB 833).”* The Education Council and NITC staff also assisted the PSC in the development of the draft agenda and encouraged participation from K-12 and other entities from across Nebraska.

**Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group** The Education Council will act in support of the Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group and its recommendations. This work group, with a majority of its membership from education, is expected to begin meeting on March 26, 2003.